

## BOOK NOTICES

YONG NO LEE. 2006. **New Flora of Korea** (two volume set). (ISBN 89-09-11801-6, vol. 1; ISBN 89-09-11802-4, vol. 2, hbk.). Kyo-Hak Publishing Co., Ltd., 105-67, Gongdeok-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul, Korea. (**Orders:** 02-7075-155-156, 02-7075-160 Fax, chief@kyohak.co.kr, www.kyohak.co.kr) \$345.00 (postage (surface) included to U.S.A.), 976 pp., vol. 1; 888 pp., vol. 2, abundant color photographs, 9" × 11 1/2".

So many beautiful and detailed color photos (I estimate 80+% of the species with a photo: match photo number with species number) ... but I can read the scientific names, that's all. Ferns, grasses, sedges, trees, daisies, and all the rest—all illustrated in two big volumes (boxed set). It's not cheap but what a value for botanists. From the 'flyer': 4157 taxa of native and naturalized plants of Korea; almost all plant pictures have been taken by the author; Vol. I with 976 pages, Vol. II with 888; scientific names, proper Korean names, English names, Chinese names, and Japanese names have been used; habitats, distributions, flowering seasons, and chromosome numbers have been recorded; new species and rearranged species names have been arranged in an appendix (primarily an index of new taxa and new combinations by the author in various literature from 1993 to early 2006, joined by many new combinations proposed here de novo). Since synonyms are given for very few of the scientific names, the index to scientific names functions as a checklist for the whole flora.—*Guy Nesom, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4068, U.S.A.*

DAVID BAXTER (Photographs by Laurence Parent). 2002. **Nature of the Forest: Temple-Inland's Timberlands in the Twenty-first Century**. (ISBN 009718675-0-X, hbk.). Temple-Inland Inc. No other information provided.

It's not easy to be enthusiastic about books about timber companies, published by timber companies, because so much private forest land has been turned to monoculture, the diversity of all plants reduced literally to a few species. Practices of the USDA Forest Service commonly give the same result over large portions of public land. This book obviously is intended to put the best face possible on the Temple-Inland timber company—nicely written and full of beautiful pictures. But TI is surely one of the white (whiter?) hats among the big players in timber management, as it apparently has set aside an unusual amount of land for preservation of natural communities. The book notes that "Temple maintains about a quarter of its land as natural forest;" ... some seventeen percent of its land is in SMZs [streamside management zones]—340,000 acres. Plans are to level off at eighteen to twenty percent of the company's total acreage." It also maintains a number of "special places" conserved within its holdings in east Texas, Alabama, and Georgia, and in 2006 the Native Plant Society of Texas recognized Temple-Inland with an award for its contribution to native plant habitat preservation in East Texas.

As noted in the book, "Temple-Inland is in the tree business, but the greater Temple-Inland company has expertise in real estate development. As such, Temple is positioned to develop some company land for its 'highest and best use.' Temple already owns the land, so would not be out the cost of acquisition, and might look at other types of development." The ultimate fate of TI holdings and all timber lands has recently become conspicuously unpredictable—Boise-Cascade sold all of its 2.3 million acres of forestland in 2004, and in 2005 International Paper announced the sale of its 6.8 million acres of North American timberland, including many conservation areas (see Nature Conservancy, Autumn 2006). Only a small fraction of this land has been moved into some kind of conservation status. At least commercial timber land, even with its greatly reduced species diversity, can be coaxed back into a semi-natural condition, but other kinds of development (housing or commercial) are more nearly irrevocable.—*Guy Nesom, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4068, U.S.A.*